



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
Secretariat**

PC.DEL/189/13  
21 March 2013

ENGLISH only

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### **Conference Services**

At the request of the OSCE Delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the attached statement delivered to the 945<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Permanent Council on 21 March 2013 is being distributed to all OSCE delegations.



**DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE OSCE  
March 21, 2013  
Ambassador Zoran Dabik  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Macedonia to the OSCE**

**Statement in response to Mr. Gary Robbins, Chargé d’Affairs of the United States Mission to the OSCE on the Upcoming Local Elections in Macedonia**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Macedonian Delegation, I would like to thank the distinguished US representative for his statement. We are pleased that he noted the attainment of the inter-party agreement that would allow the elections to take place as originally scheduled. As you are aware, although that we faced challenges, we managed to overcome the stalemate, thus the political interplay is again back on track.

We would also like to express our appreciation for ODIHR activities in Macedonia and would like to reaffirm our readiness for a comprehensive observation mission. The latter speak of our willingness to be fully open and transparent in conducting the local elections scheduled for March 24, 2013.

In addition, we would like to address some of the concerns that the upcoming elections may feature democratic shortcomings. We strongly believe that similarly to the case of the last extraordinary parliamentary elections, where, as stated in the ODIHR report; “voters were able to freely express their choice in a peaceful atmosphere.” the upcoming local elections will be deprived of any kind of misconduct.

I thank you Mr. Chairperson.